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SIXTH COMMITTEE
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at 10 a.m.
New York

# SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. LEHMANN (Denmark)

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AGENDA ITEM 146: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 146: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (A/50/372 and Add.1, A/50/67-S/1995/64, A/50/128-S/1995/247, A/50/133-S/1995/282, A/50/135-S/1995/293, A/50/168-S/1995/341, A/50/215-S/1995/475, A/50/254-S/1995/501, A/50/305-S/1995/608, A/50/315-S/1995/622, A/50/359-S/1995/718 and A/50/457-S/1995/811)

1. Mr. CORELL (The Legal Counsel) said that in 1994 the Committee's efforts with regard to international terrorism had resulted in a significant achievement, the adoption of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, annexed to General Assembly resolution 49/60. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/50/372 and Add.1), submitted in accordance with the request made by the General Assembly in resolution 49/60. Section II of the report contained the proposals of the Secretary-General regarding the modalities of implementation of paragraph 10 of the Declaration; those proposals took into account the General Assembly's request that any activity undertaken in that connection should be carried out within existing resources.

2. Section III of the report contained replies received from Member States; although some States had provided the texts of relevant legislation, the Secretary-General had felt it preferable, pending the reaction of the General Assembly and of the Committee to his proposals on the modalities of implementation of paragraph 10, to defer the publication of the material in question. The material, which was currently available for consultation, would be taken into account in preparing the compendium envisaged in paragraph 10 (b) of the Declaration.

3. In connection with the information provided in the annex to the report, he wished to notify the Committee that Portugal had acceded to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, on 11 September 1995.

4. Mr. SANCHEZ (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the Union wished to reiterate its support for the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism; no motive or cause, however legitimate it might seem, could in any circumstances justify the perpetration of acts of terrorism. Unfortunately, since the adoption of resolution 49/60 there had been numerous acts of terrorism throughout the world, involving loss of life, abductions and damage to property. The European Union categorically condemned such acts.

5. The European Union fully supported the Secretary-General's proposals for carrying out, within available resources, the tasks entrusted to him in the Declaration, and hoped that he would soon have at his disposal the necessary information, including replies from States.

6. The European Union maintained its firm position that in order to combat international terrorism effectively, international coordination of the efforts

made by States was required. Furthermore, the struggle against terrorism must be carried out in accordance with international law, and with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The European Union believed that since States were legally responsible for the protection of human rights, violations of the international human rights instruments could not be attributed to illegal groups or to individuals.

7. A priority in international cooperation against terrorism must be to secure the highest possible level of participation by States in international instruments on the subject, and it would therefore be desirable for States which had not yet done so to ratify the relevant conventions so that persons guilty of terrorist crimes would not be able to find refuge anywhere in the world.

8. International cooperation against terrorism should also include the exchange of information with a view to preventing acts of terrorism and ensuring the apprehension and prosecution or extradition of the perpetrators of terrorist acts. Within the European Union, the Maastricht Treaty contained provisions aimed at combating terrorism through cooperation among member States in the areas of justice and internal affairs.

9. The European Union reiterated its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism as a grave offence against the international community, and its support for international action to eliminate terrorism.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

10. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the Group of Eastern European States had nominated Mr. Tomka (Slovenia) for the post of Chairman of the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law. If there were no other nominations he would take it that the Committee wished to elect Mr. Tomka.

11. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.